



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (BHR)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Indonesia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2001

May 15, 2001

BACKGROUND

For several decades, Indonesia has experienced political conflict and ethnic violence in several regions of the country. Since 1999, serious conflict and population displacement has occurred in the Moluccas, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Aceh, Timor, and Irian Jaya, exacerbated by Indonesia's political and economic crisis. Conflict in each of these regions has been fueled by resentments over Indonesia's recently abandoned policy of transmigration, through which residents of Java and other heavily populated islands were re-located to less populated areas. Other contributing factors to the conflict include a lack of resource distribution and real or perceived social inequities in past government policies. A summary of the current humanitarian situation in the more volatile regions of Indonesia is provided below.

NUMBERS AFFECTED AT A GLANCE

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): As of April 16, 2001, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reports there are about 1.2 million IDPs throughout Indonesia. The approximate total population of IDPs located in the more volatile regions of Indonesia, where USAID/OFDA is monitoring the situation or providing humanitarian assistance, is broken down to include at least 415,000 IDPs in the Moluccas; nearly 100,000 evacuees from Kalimantan to Central and East Java (approximately 80,000 on Madura Island); 300,000 IDPs in Sulawesi; 25,000 people displaced within Aceh and 35,000 IDPs from Aceh to areas of North Sumatra; at least 16,600 IDPs within Irian Jaya; and approximately 50,000 – 100,000 East Timorese IDPs in West Timor.

Total FY 2001 USAID Assistance to Indonesia Complex Emergency.....\$10,149,023

CURRENT SITUATION

Moluccas

- **Continued insecurity.** Sectarian conflict began in January 1999, leading to the substantial dislocation of populations in the Moluccas and the issuance of a "state of civil emergency" for the region. Since 1999, clashes between Christian and Muslim populations in the Moluccas have resulted in at least 4,000 deaths, hundreds of thousands displaced, and the widespread destruction of homes, shops, places of worship, and public buildings. Particularly hard hit have been Ambon (in Maluku Province) and Halmahera (North Maluku Province), where living conditions have deteriorated and public services, such as health, transportation, education, and water/sanitation, have been severely disrupted.
- **Humanitarian situation.** Despite a general decline in violence in recent months, more than 400,000 IDPs remain sheltered in IDP camps, public buildings, or with local populations. Many IDPs continue to live in precarious and often insecure conditions. However, most of the immediate needs of the IDPs, including food security, shelter, and basic health, are being met by humanitarian organizations or through local resources.

Kalimantan

- **Escalation of ethnic violence in Central Kalimantan.** For several decades, Kalimantan has experienced civil unrest because the indigenous population has not accepted the settler populations

generated by the transmigration policies of the central government in Jakarta. Economic competition and ethnic discrimination have contributed to resentments among the indigenous population toward the settlers. In the past, several revolts have resulted in the displacement of thousands of people, hundreds of deaths, and human rights abuses.

A recent escalation in violence occurred during March and April 2001, when indigenous Dayaks attacked Madurese migrants in Central Kalimantan. The violence quickly spread from Sampit to nearby towns, resulting in more than 500 deaths and approximately 100,000 evacuees. Most of the IDPs fled Kalimantan for Madura Island and other locations in Central and East Java. Currently there are about 62,000 IDPs at Sampang and another 17,000 at Bangkalan, both on Madura Island. According to U.N. reports, Dayak gangs continue to target Madurese migrants and burn homes in Kalimantan to prevent those who have fled from returning home.

- **Humanitarian situation.** Despite the sudden influx of at least 100,000 Madurese IDPs to their ancestral home on Madura Island and other nearby locations on Java, the immediate humanitarian needs of the new arrivals (including water/sanitation, health, food security, basic shelter, and hygiene) are being met by humanitarian organizations, the local community, and the local government.

Sulawesi

- **Escalation of sectarian violence in Central Sulawesi.** Since December 1998, Central Sulawesi has experienced sectarian conflict. During the spring of

2000, civil unrest in the region resulted in destruction or damage to more than 5,000 homes and public buildings, more than 250 deaths, and more than 70,000 people displaced in the area of Poso and Tentena.

More recently, in April 2001, sectarian violence again flared between Muslim and Christian communities in Poso. This was directly attributed to the trial and resulting death sentences for three men accused of plotting the civil clashes during the spring of 2000. In the resulting conflict, more than 2,000 IDPs sought refuge in Palu.

- **Repatriation and resettlement efforts.** According to U.N. reports, Sulawesi remains host to more than 300,000 IDPs generated by sporadic violence both within Sulawesi and in neighboring provinces. Many are IDPs from North Maluku who have sought shelter in North Sulawesi. Information about the condition and humanitarian needs of IDPs throughout Sulawesi is limited. IDPs who have sought refuge in Sulawesi from violence in other provinces have created new tensions with local residents.

Aceh

- **Continued insecurity due to increased clashes between pro-independence movements and GOI security forces.** Since Indonesian independence, Aceh's relationship with the GOI has been strained. This tension has been fueled by anger over alleged GOI military and police abuses, perceived exploitation of oil and gas reserves in Aceh by the GOI, and limited GOI re-investment in Aceh of profits from the province's natural resources. Since 1999, the separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the GOI have been engaged in negotiations over prospects for autonomy. A Humanitarian Pause, beginning in June 2000, led to a notable decrease in violence. However, negotiations between the GAM and the GOI have recently faltered.

In March 2001, the GOI officially declared the GAM a separatist movement, dismissing limited autonomy for Aceh as a possible solution to the conflict. Also, the Indonesian military (TNI) announced a limited offensive against the GAM in Aceh, effectively ending the cease-fire agreement. In mid-April, a presidential decree was issued authorizing the military to restore law and order in the province.

- **The humanitarian situation in Aceh continues to deteriorate.** According to U.N. reports, 25,000 IDPs are displaced within Aceh and another 35,000 IDPs from Aceh (mainly ethnic non-Acehnese) have moved to locations in North Sumatra. Media reports indicate that more than 400 people have been killed in Aceh this year. Most IDPs continue to live in scattered camps, while some have sought refuge in the jungle or other remote areas. Since the implementation of village sweeps by GOI security forces and the systematic burning of buildings during March, many of the IDPs do not have homes to return to, nor do they have access to their former livelihoods.

West Timor

- **Continued displacement of East Timorese.** In the aftermath of the 1999 independence referendum in East Timor and ensuing violence, approximately 50,000 – 100,000 East Timorese remain displaced in squalid IDP camps or among villagers in West Timor.

- **Humanitarian situation.** Insecurity remains high due to the continued presence of East Timorese pro-integration militias among the IDP population in West Timor. The provincial government has responded to humanitarian needs with some limited support, but this support has not been sufficient to fully meet basic needs.

- **Repatriation and resettlement efforts.** On September 6, 2000, three U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff members were killed in Atambua by militia members and their supporters. The U.N. has stated it will not return international staff members to West Timor until the U.N. Security Council deems the security situation to again be satisfactory. To date, the U.N. Security Council has not scheduled an assessment of the security situation in West Timor. Nevertheless, the U.N. has periodically visited displaced populations in West Timor to encourage repatriation to East Timor. Since the beginning of the year, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has facilitated the repatriation of more than 12,000 East Timorese.

Irian Jaya (West Papua)

- **Pro-independence movements.** Pro-independence activities by organizations such as the Free Papua Movement and violent confrontations with the military have become increasingly prominent in Irian Jaya. This has led to the displacement of thousands of people. The pro-independence movement continues to gain strength, fueled by human rights abuses and lack of local control over natural resources.

- **Humanitarian situation.** According to U.N. reports, at least 16,600 people remain displaced in Irian Jaya, including those displaced as a result of conflict within Irian Jaya and influxes of IDPs from other regions.

U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance

- On October 13, 2000, U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard renewed the disaster declaration for the ongoing complex emergency in Indonesia. In renewing the disaster declaration, which was originally issued in May 1999, Ambassador Gelbard cited the continuing political and economic crisis, and violent conflicts that continue to generate widespread population displacement and humanitarian need.

- In response to the FY 1999 – FY 2001 disaster declarations, USAID/OFDA has monitored developments in volatile provinces, conducted assessments in areas where the humanitarian situation has been most dire, and deployed emergency relief assistance where needed and appropriate.

- In September 2000, USAID/OFDA posted an Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC) in Jakarta to assist USAID/Jakarta in the monitoring of humanitarian needs in Indonesia, and to coordinate USAID/OFDA emergency assistance to disaster-affected areas.
- Insecurity and violence continue to hamper humanitarian relief efforts and the ability of the USG to provide assistance in many regions of Indonesia.
- **USAID/OFDA Assistance**
World Vision International (WVI) – provided basic shelter and essential household items to IDPs in Madura..... \$218,404
CARE International – provided basic shelter, seeds, and agricultural tools to IDPs in Central Sulawesi. \$546,800
Action Contre La Faim (ACF) – provided essential relief and hygiene items, seeds and tools, basic shelter, and fishing implements for IDPs in Maluku and North Maluku Provinces.....\$780,000
WVI – provided hygiene kits to IDPs in Madura \$254,000
International Medical Corps (IMC) – provided medical and water/sanitation interventions; including primary health, transport, and storage of potable water, and trauma management for IDPs in Madura..... \$302,600
Mercy Corps International (MCI) – funded quick impact grants through local NGOs in Ambon, Maluku Province in the shelter, non-food commodities, and water/sanitation sectors..... \$1,532,634
IMC – provided primary health outreach for IDPs and conflict-affected communities in North Maluku..... \$780,680

Total USAID/OFDA FY 2001 \$4,415,118

- **USAID/Food For Peace Assistance**
To date, no emergency assistance to report for FY 2001

- **USAID/Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) Assistance**
USAID/OTI is providing assistance through 96 grants in Indonesia during FY 2001. Areas of assistance include programs in civil society, civil/military relations, community stabilization, governance, and media.

Total USAID/OTI FY 2001.....\$2,342,373

- **USAID/Office of Population, Health and Nutrition (PHN) Assistance**
ACF – provided supplemental feeding to IDPs located in both North and South Maluku\$300,000
WVI – conducted supplemental and therapeutic feedings to IDPs located in North Maluku, West Kalimantan, and Madura\$1,091,532
Save the Children Foundation – provided psycho-social activities to returnees in Aceh\$1,500,000
U.N. World Health Organization – conducted polio vaccinations in Maluku, Irian Jaya, Aceh, and West Timor.....\$500,000

Total USAID/PHN FY 2001.....\$3,391,532

- **U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Assistance**
In FY 2001, State/PRM is providing approximately \$2 million in regional assistance in support of refugee reintegration programs and emergency relief activities in Indonesia through International Organizations including the UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Total State/PRM FY 2001\$2,000,000

- **Department of Defense Assistance**
To date, no emergency assistance to report for FY2001

TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance FY 2001\$12,149,023

Tamra Halmrast-Sanchez
Acting Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html

